

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 /148 W

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R 180800Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3578

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

US MISSION GENEVA 126

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 444

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 2430

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, TZ, OAU

SUBJ: BURUNDI: NYERERE RESPONDS TO GOWON

REF: LAGOS 5757

1. PRESIDENT NYERERE SENT ON JULY 16 FOLLOWING TELEGRAM
(UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED) TO GENERAL GOWON, CHAIRMAN OF
OAU, IN RESPONSE TO CABLE FROM NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE:

2. QUOTE I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM FOR WHICH I AM MOST
GRATEFUL. BUT I WANT TO HASTEN TO ASSURE YOU, MY DEAR BROTHER,
THAT THERE IS NO DISPUTE BETWEEN TANZANIA AND BURUNDI WHICH
WOULD WARRANT SERIOUS ATTENTION OF O.A.U. RECENT INCIDENTS
IN WHICH TOTAL OF 84 TANZANIAN CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED
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ARE OVERSPILL FROM RECURRING AND WIDESPREAD TRIBAL CONFLICT

IN BURUNDI WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1972. IT IS THIS WHICH HAS CAUSED APPROXIMATELY 40,000 BURUNDI CITIZENS TO TAKE REFUGE IN TANZANIA, AND AS THESE REGISTER WITH OUR AUTHORITIES THEY ARE MOVED TO REFUGEE CAMPS AT TABORA MORE THAN 150 MILES FROM BORDER. BUT KILLING INSIDE BURUNDI APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING. LAST YEAR NUMBER OF DEATHS THERE ARE RELIABLY AND CONSERVATIVELY REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ABOUT 90,000 PEOPLE, AND LARGE SCALE KILLINGS HAVE RECURRED DURING PAST SIX WEEKS. THIS SAD CONFLICT IN WHICH BROTHER CONTINUES TO KILL BROTHER INSIDE BURUNDI IS VERY SERIOUS MATTER FOR AFRICA AS WHOLE. I TAKE HEART FROM YOUR TELEGRAM TO ME, YOUR OWN SINCERE CONCERN AND REKNOWNED HONESTY, TO URGE THAT O.A.U. SHOULD FIND METHOD TO HELP PEOPLE OF BURUNDI TO SOLVE THIS DESPERATE PROBLEM.

O.A.U. POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEMBER COUNTRY SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE EFFORT AT MEDIATION BY O.A.U. WHEN TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE DYING AND BURUNDI GOVERNMENT IS EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO BRING KILLING TO END. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT AT ADDIS ABABA BURUNDI SUGGESTION THAT TROUBLE IN THEIR COUNTRY WAS CAUSED BY RWANDA WAS REJECTED. IT WAS RIGHTLY REALISED THAT THIS WAS ATTEMPT BY BURUNDI TO CONVERT INTERNAL PROBLEM INTO BILATERAL PROBLEM WITH NEIGHBOUR. BUT WE CANNOT LEAVE MATTER THERE. BOTH HUMANITY AND CAUSE OF PEACE IN AFRICA DEMAND THAT WE CONCERN OURSELVES ACTIVELY. IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOUR DELEGATION IN DAR ES SALAAM AND ENLARGE UPON THESE VIEWS. UNQUOTE SHINN

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